

What is claimed is: <sup>121</sup>

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5,213,145 ~~sub~~
1. A sunshade, comprising:  
a shade; and <sup>(30, 32)</sup>  
at least two supports, each support having a length, a first <sup>A</sup>  
end and a second end, with the second end of each support  
5 coupled to the shade at spaced-apart locations thereof, each  
support having an adjustable length. <sup>thru 142</sup>  
<sup>stopper</sup>
2. The device of claim 1, wherein each support has a  
10 resilient element and bar coupled thereto, with the bar  
including the second end.
- ~~sub~~ 3. The device of claim 1, wherein each support further  
15 includes a tubular portion having a hollow interior that houses  
the resilient element.
4. The device of claim 2, wherein each resilient element is  
coupled to the first end of each support, and further including  
20 a connector coupled to the first end of at least two of the  
supports.
5. The device of claim 4, wherein the shade is adapted to  
assume an unstable equilibrium position in which the supports  
and the shade are substantially coplanar with the connector, a  
25 collapsed position when the shade and supports are on one side  
of the unstable equilibrium position in which the shade is  
folded, and a deployed position when the shade and supports are  
on the other side of the unstable equilibrium position in which  
the supports and the shade are expanded.
- 30 <sup>102</sup> 6. The device of claim 1, wherein the at least two supports  
comprises two supports, with the first end of each support  
coupled to the shade at spaced-apart locations thereof.

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7. The device of claim 4, wherein the connector has a central portion, and one leaf for coupling the first end of each support, with the leaf hingedly connected to the central portion by an integral thin section.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the leaf has a locking member, and the central portion has a groove, with the locking member fitted inside the groove to hold the leaf at a fixed position with respect to the central portion.

9. A sunshade, comprising:  
a shade;

at least two supports, each support having a first end and a second end, with the second end of each support coupled to the shade at spaced-apart locations thereof; and

a connector coupled to the first end of at least two of the supports, the connector having a central portion that has a groove, and one leaf for coupling the first end of each support, with the leaf hingedly connected to the central portion by an integral thin section and having a locking member fitted inside the groove to hold the leaf at a fixed position with respect to the central portion.

10. The sunshade of claim 9, wherein the shade is adapted to assume an unstable equilibrium position in which the supports and the shade are substantially coplanar with the connector, a collapsed position when the shade and supports are on one side of the unstable equilibrium position in which the shade is folded, and a deployed position when the shade and supports are on the other side of the unstable equilibrium position in which the supports and the shade are expanded.

11. The sunshade of claim 9, further including a stop, and wherein the connector engages the stop when the shade is in the deployed position.

5 12. The sunshade of claim 9, wherein the connector acts as a hinge for the shade about the unstable equilibrium position.

10 13. The sunshade of claim 9, wherein the at least two supports comprises four supports, and the shade has four sides and four corners, with the second end of each support connected to a separate corner.

15 14. The sunshade of claim 9, wherein the central portion can be provided in a configuration selected from the group consisting of quadrilateral, rectangular, triangular, hexagonal, trapezoidal and pentagonal.

20 15. The sunshade of claim 9, wherein the central portion has one stop edge adjacent each thin section, and the leaf has one stop edge adjacent each thin section, wherein the stop edges of the corresponding leaf and the central portion engage each other when the shade is in the deployed position.

25 16. The sunshade of claim 9, wherein each support has a length, a first end and a second end, with the second end of each support coupled to the shade at spaced-apart locations thereof, each support having an adjustable length.

30 17. The sunshade of claim 16, wherein each support has a resilient element and bar coupled thereto, with the bar including the second end.

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18. The sunshade of claim 16, wherein each support further includes a tubular portion having a hollow interior that houses the resilient element.

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19. The sunshade of claim 16, wherein each resilient element is coupled to the first end of each support.

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